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ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ADS-00 ARA-15 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 /035 W

-----066165 240131Z /21

R 211230Z SEP 79  
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7140

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S2000000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): B6

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLAS ASUNCION 4320

H PASS

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING POLITICAL  
PRISONERS

HONORABLE MARK O. HATFIELD  
PORTLAND OFFICE, ROOM 104  
PIONEER COURTHOUSE  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204

DEAR SENATOR HATFIELD:

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE MATTER OF PERSONS  
DETAINED IN PARAGUAY WHICH WAS BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION  
BY YOUR CONSTITUENT, [ ]  
ENRIQUE AND OFELIA LANDI ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD WITHOUT  
CHARGES BY THE PARAGUAYAN POLICE AUTHORITIES. THEY ARE  
REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SEVERELY TORTURED AND WERE PROBABLY  
DETAINED AT THE REQUEST OF THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES  
ALLEGEDLY FOR INVOLVEMENT IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES  
BEGIN CARRIED OUT IN ARGENTINA. THEIR THREE YEAR OLD  
SON'S WHEREABOUTS IS PRESENTLY UNKNOWN ALTHOUGH HUMAN RIGHTS  
ORGANIZATIONS IN ASUNCION BELIEVE THE CHILD MAY BE RECEIVING  
CARE IN TH HOME OF A POLICE OFFICIAL.

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JUAN CARLOS SILVA AND ROMAN SILVA HAD BEEN DETAINED  
BY THE PARAGUAYAN AUTHORITIES BUT HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED

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THEY HAVE TOLD FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE NOT TORTURED WHILE IN POLICE CUSTODY BUT SAID THEY DID RECEIV SOME MALTREATMENT WHEN FIRST DETAINED. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS THAT OTHER ARGENTINE NATIONALS DETAINED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE LANDIS HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM PARAGUAY TO ARGENTINA. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO DEFINITE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS TO THE IDENTITY OR NUMBERS OF THESE PEOPLE. THE EMBASSY HAS MADE KNOWN ITS GREAT CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUING UNLAWFUL DETENTION OF THE LANDI COUPLE AND OVER THE REPORTS OF THEI TORTURE. FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE EMBASSY HAS MADE KNOWN REPEATEDLY TO HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGTHS VIOLATIONS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED AND ARE OCCURRING IN PARAGUAY. ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE IMPROVE-MENTS HAVE COME ABOUT BOTH IN REGARD TO THE NUMBERS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING HELD AND IN THE FREEDOM WITH WHICH THE INDEPENDENT PARAGUAYAN PRESS IS ALLOWED TO OPERATE, THE PROBLEMS OF ARBITRARY IMPRISONMENT AND POLICE BRUTALITY CONTINE AS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DETRACT FROM GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT. I CAN ASSURE YOUR THAT THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO URGE THE PARAGUAYAN GVERNMENT TO OBSERVE ITS OWN CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES AND ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS TO RESPECT THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS OF THIS COUNTRY. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL TAKE UP THE LANDI CASE WITH OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY AND RELAY TO THEM YOUR EXPRESSION OF CONCERN TO ME. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF I CAN BE OF ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE.

SINCERELY,  
ROBERT E. WHITE  
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AMBASSADOR

WHITE

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